

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /054 W

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R 031523Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8407

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, SF

SUBJECT: CORN IMPORT RUMOR

REF: STATE 152361; PRETORIA 2408; AG. REPORT SA3033

1. POSSIBILITY SA NEED TO IMPORT CORN MENTIONED IN AG. REPORT SA3033 DATED MAY 3, 1973. LATEST CROP ESTIMATE 4.2 MILLION METRIC TONS TOTAL, OF WHICH 2.015 MILLION METRIC TONS WHITE CORN. THIS SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN ESTIMATES GIVEN ECON COUNSELOR AND AG. ATTACHE ON JULY 6 (SEE PRETORIA 2408). ESTIMATED STOCK POSITION END APRIL 1974 INCLUDING REVISED CONSUMPTION ESTIMATES WOULD BE 22,000 METRIC TONS WHITE AND 149,000 METRIC TONS YELLOW CORN. NORMAL CARRY-OVER 900,000 METRIC TONS; TARGET SHORT FALL THUS 538,000 TONS WHITE, 191,000 TONS YELLOW CORN. AUTHORITIES WILL NOT HOWEVER CONFIRM POSSIBILITY OF CORN IMPORTS AT THIS STAGE.

2. ALSO POSSIBILITY 20-25,000 TONS SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORTS JANUARY TO APRIL 1974.

3. FYI ONLY. (A) BASIC SHORTAGE IS OF WHITE CORN FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. MIXING SCHEME COULD MIX 345,000 TONS OF YELLOW CORN WITH WHITE BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 1973, FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE PROBLEMATIC.

(B) ANIMAL CONSUMPTION OF YELLOW CORN DOUBLED IN FIRST 6 MONTHS
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OF 1973 DUE TO HIGH BEEF PRICES AND THIS COULD PUT PRESSURE ON

YELLOW CORN SUPPLIES.

(C) RUMOR IS THAT SAG WILL NOT CONSIDER APPROVING IMPORTS AT THIS STAGE BECAUSE OF PRESENT HIGH WORLD PRICES OF CORN.

(D) DECISION ON IMPORTS PROBABLE AFTER SPRING RAINS FOR NEW SEASON'S CROP I.E. SEPT-NOV 1973.

(E) FISHMEAL PRODUCERS HAVE APPROACHED SAG TO PERMIT EXPORT FISHMEAL AND IMPORT SOYBEAN MEAL IN PLACE. SOYBEAN/FISHMEAL SITUATION TENTATIVE HOWEVER. FURTHER MEETING WITH FISHMEAL PRODUCERS SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK, BUT DECISION LIKELY BE CLOSELY HELD. END FYI.

HURD

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